

The original interconnection agreement between these parties was filed on April 3, 2002, and was assigned Docket No. 02-00352. By operation of Section 252(e)(4) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the interconnection agreement was deemed approved on approved on July 2, 2002. The first amendment was filed on October 31, 2002, under Docket No. 02-01185 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on December 2, 2002. The second amendment was filed on October 28, 2003, under Docket

No. 03-00572 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on December 8, 2003. The third amendment, which is the subject of this docket, was filed on August 30, 2004.

Based upon a review of the amendment, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

2) The amendment is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. service area.

3) The amendment is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.

4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).¹ Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the amendment is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.

5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.

6) The amendment is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

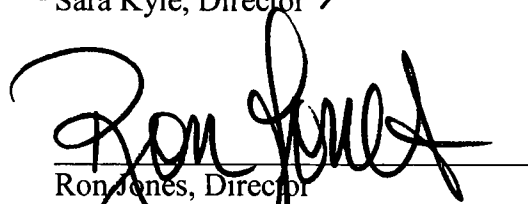
¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B)

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Petition is granted, and the third amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Tele-Sys, Inc. d/b/a Access America Telephone Co. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Deborah Taylor Tate, Director


Sara Kyle, Director


Ron Jones, Director